

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the merits of the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 4-15 are currently pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 4 and 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 6, and 10 have been amended in this manner, and accordingly these claims should now be allowed. Claims 7-9 should now be allowed as they originally depend from claim 4. Acknowledgment of same is respectfully requested.

II. The Anticipation Rejection Of Claims 1-3, 5 and 11

Claims 1-3, 5, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,839,538 to Magyar. *See* Office Action at page 2. Particularly, the Examiner contends that Magyar discloses each and every limitation recited in these claims. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees, the rejection is now moot in view of the current amendments to the claims. Particularly, claims 1-3 have been cancelled in order to include that subject matter into allowable claim 4. *See* Remarks § I, *supra*. Currently amended claim 5 now depends from claim 4. Currently amended claim 11 now depends from allowable claim 10. *See id.* Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

III. The Obviousness Rejection Of Claims 12-15

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Magyar in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,516,918 to Hess. *See* Office Action at page 3. Claims 13-15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Magyar in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,811 to Tornabene *et al.* *See id.* at page 4. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the grounds for these rejections, claims 12-15 have been amended to now depend from allowable claim 10. *See* Remarks § I, *supra*. Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness rejections are moot in view of the amendments. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The

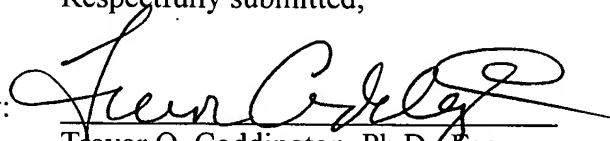
Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

Applicant is concurrently filing herewith a Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time along with the requisite fee. In the event that a variance exists between the amount tendered and that required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requires to enter and consider this Reply, or to prevent abandonment of the present application, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 31116.00010.UTL1.P1068).

Respectfully submitted,

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